

Remarks

Applicants hereby traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reasons. The rules governing restriction practice under the Patent Cooperation Treaty provide:

“Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 **shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.** The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.”

PCT Rule 13.2. (emphasis added.)

The claims of the instant application include Group I, claims 1 and 3-9, and Group II, claims 2 and 10-16. Groups I and II of the instant application satisfy the unity of invention requirement, and are thus improperly restricted, because they share a technical relationship involving the same special technical feature, thereby complying with Rule 13.2. In particular, claims 1 and 2 each recite “a fixing member is provided which fixes at least a part of the cable...” As explained in detail in the Specification, this special technical feature fixes the cable such that unevenness in the stray capacitance is less likely to occur and such that high-frequency noise is effectively reduced.

For the aforementioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement is improper, and requests that claims 1-16 be given consideration on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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